

(b) Documentary evidence in the form of exhibits attached to an affidavit identifying the exhibit and giving its source.

§ 386.50 Appearances and rights of witnesses.

(a) Any party to a proceeding may appear and be heard in person or by attorney. A regular employee of a party who appears on behalf of the party may be required by the administrative law judge to show his or her authority to so appear.

(b) Any person submits data or evidence in a proceeding governed by this part may, upon timely request and payment of costs, procure a copy of any document submitted by him/her or of any transcript. Original documents, data or evidence may be retained upon permission of the administrative law judge or Assistant Administrator upon substitution of copy therefor.

§ 386.51 Amendment and withdrawal of pleadings.

(a) Except in instances covered by other rules, anytime more than 15 days prior to the hearing, a party may amend his/her pleadings by serving the amended pleading on the Assistant Administrator or the administrative law judge, if one has been appointed, and on all parties. Within 15 days prior to the hearing, an amendment shall be allowed only at the discretion of the Administrative law judge. When an amended pleading is filed, other parties may file a response and objection within 10 days.

(b) A party may withdraw his/her pleading only on approval of the administrative law judge or Assistant Administrator.

§ 386.52 Appeals from interlocutory rulings.

Rulings of the administrative law judge may not be appealed to the Assistant Administrator prior to his/her consideration of the entire proceeding except under exceptional circumstances and with the consent of the administrative law judge. In deciding whether to allow appeals, the administrative law judge shall determine whether the appeal is necessary to prevent undue prejudice to a party or to

prevent substantial detriment to the public interest.

§ 386.53 Subpoenas, witness fees.

(a) Applications for the issuance of subpoenas must be submitted to the Assistant Administrator, or in cases that have been called for a hearing, to the administrative law judge. The application must show the general relevance and reasonable scope of the evidence sought. Any person served with a subpoena may, within 7 days after service, file a motion to quash or modify. The motion must be filed with the official who approved the subpoena. The filing of a motion shall stay the effect of the subpoena until a decision is reached.

(b) Witnesses shall be entitled to the same fees and mileage as are paid witnesses in the courts of the United States. The fees shall be paid by the party at whose instance the witness is subpoenaed or appears.

(c) Paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply to the Administrator or employees of the FMCSA or to the production of documents in their custody. Applications for the attendance of such persons or the production of such documents at a hearing shall be made to the Assistant Administrator or administrative law judge, if one is appointed, and shall set forth the need for such evidence and its relevancy.

§ 386.54 Administrative law judge.

(a) *Appointment.* After the matter is called for hearing, the Assistant Administrator shall appoint an administrative law judge.

(b) *Power and duties.* The administrative law judge has power to take any action and to make all needful rules and regulations to govern the conduct of the proceedings to ensure a fair and impartial hearing, and to avoid delay in the disposition of the proceedings. The powers of the administrative law judge include the following:

(1) To administer oaths and affirmations;

(2) To issue orders permitting inspection and examination of lands, buildings, equipment, and any other physical thing and the copying of any document;